

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 CEQ-02

CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10

IO-13 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-15

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R 141724 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7809

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY EMIN XV BE

SUBJECT: LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO EXPLORATION FOR AND
EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN ANTARCTICA

REF: STATE 81788

1. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE BELGIUM HAS NO STATUTORY OR
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ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO MINERAL EXPLORATION OR EXPLOITATION IN ANTARCTICA. ANY FUTURE LAW MIGHT BE PATTERNED AFTER LAW OF JUNE 13, 1969 ON CONTINENTAL SHELF. LAW SPECIFIES THAT EXPLORATION FOR AND EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES ON SHELF BEYOND TERRITORIAL SEA SUBJECT TO CONCESSIONS GRANTED ACCORDING TO CONDITIONS DETERMINED BY KING.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BELGIANS MADE 15 SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS TO ANTARCTICA DURING PERIOD 1958-1970 AND HAVE HISTORY OF EARLIER EXPLORATIONS. ALTHOUGH KING BAUDOUIN BASE ON PRINCESS RAGNILD COAST CLOSED " PROVISIONALLY" IN 1967 FOR LACK OF FUNDS, RECENT PUBLICATION OF STUDY ENTITLED " ECONOMY OF THE POLAR REGIONS" BY PHILIPPE VAN DER ESSEN INDICATES CONTINUING BELGIAN INTEREST IN EVENTUAL EXPLOITATION OF ANTARCTIC RESOURCES.

3. VAN DER ESSEN NOTES THAT BELGIAN EXPEDITIONS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED BY DISINTERESTED OBJECTIVE OF PURE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. BUT HE POINTS OUT THAT IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT EXPLOITATION OF CONTINENT' S RESOURCES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY CONSORTIUM OF INTERESTED POWERS, THAT AS A PRIVILEGE POWER UNDER ANTARCTIC TREATY OF 1959 BELGIUM MIGHT HAVE PLACE IN CONSORTIUM, AND THAT BELGIUM HAS QUALIFIED MEN AND KNOWLEDGE TO JUSTIFY SUCH PARTICIPATION.

4. COPIES OF LAW ON CONTINENTAL SHELF AND VAN DER ESSEN' S STUDY BEING POUCHED TO SCI/ SA. STRAUSZ- HUPE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: EMIN, TPHY, BE, XV
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